

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS CONFERENCE: CHICAGO FALLS SHORT ON ADDRESSING THE REAL DAMAGES INFLICTED BY ALDERMANIC PREROGATIVE- COMMUNITY GROUPS RELEASE RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHO: 11 community-based organizational complainants of a housing discrimination complaint filed against the City of Chicago last November, along with legal counsel, the Shriver Center on Poverty Law.

WHAT: These organizational complainants are releasing a report titled, "*Working Toward a Healed City: How Chicago Can Build Equitable Communities From the Ground Up*," which details the Complainants' recommendations for key steps the Lightfoot Administration should take to resolve the fair housing complaint filed under the Rahm Administration and inherited by the new Mayor.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 1:30 pm

WHERE: Chicago City Hall, 2nd Floor

CHICAGO—Organizational complainants of a housing discrimination complaint filed by the Shriver Center on Poverty Law against the City of Chicago during Rahm Emanuel's administration hold a press conference Wednesday to announce recommendations to the Lightfoot Administration for building a more equitable city and resolving the federal fair housing complaint filed during the last Administration. The Plaintiffs' recommendations focus on the need for citywide planning grounded in a commitment to racial equity in order to remedy the harmful effects of "patchwork planning" through aldermanic prerogative within a city as segregated as Chicago. Rooted in the values of comprehensive citywide planning to ameliorate the persistent segregation of Chicago's resources and residents, the report provides further recommendations for dramatically shifting power structures and paving the path for greater equity in community development decision-making.

This recommendations report builds on the findings of, *A City Fragmented: How Race, Power, and Aldermanic Prerogative Shape Chicago's Neighborhoods*, which challenged the long-standing Chicago tradition of neighborhood development decisions being made exclusively through aldermanic prerogative. The *City Fragmented* report showed that--- in a city as hyper-segregated as Chicago--- over-reliance on Aldermanic prerogative as a planning practice functions structurally to perpetuate pervasive racial bias, including chronic racial segregation in Chicago's neighborhoods and vastly inequitable distribution of access to public and private resources for people of color. The new report expands on this by presenting a pathway for change through the systemic use of Racial Equity Impact Analyses and the creation of a Racial Equity Action Plan to guide comprehensive citywide planning. The "Working Toward a Healed City" report also outlines a new structure for equitable civic engagement, which intentionally includes and empowers historically marginalized voices, including renters, subsidized housing residents, and people with disabilities. This new proposal for equitably and inclusively formed "Community

Development Action Councils” places power back in the hands of those who have been disparately affected by past Administrations’ failure to address the damaging effects of residential segregation.

The report authors and endorsers call for a fundamental and holistic commitment on the part of the Lightfoot Administration to advance an equal quality of life for all communities, regardless of their racial composition, and replace “patchwork planning” by aldermanic prerogative with new citywide policies and plans intentionally designed to make future development in Chicago more inclusive, equitable, and transparent. A full copy of the report is available upon request.

ABOUT US:

The Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (CAFHA) combats housing discrimination and promotes equitable place-based opportunity through education, advocacy, and collaborative action.

The Shriver Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty.

The Chicago Housing Initiative is a coalition of 11 community-based organizations working to preserve and expand low-cost rental housing and advance racial and economic equity.

The Lugenia Burns Hope Center is a leadership development and organizing institute that engages Bronzeville residents in building civic capacity.

The Kenwood Oakland Community Organization develops multi-generational leaders who impact decision-making processes and policies and improve the quality of life in our communities.

Neighbors for Affordable Housing is an independent group of Northwest Side neighbors working to make our community more affordable, accessible, inclusive, and compassionate.

Logan Square Neighborhood Association is a multi-issue community organization, directly serving more than 6,500 residents across the Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale neighborhoods to ensure low-income, immigrant families have opportunities to be more engaged in the decisions that impact them.

The Jane Addams Senior Caucus is a multiracial, grassroots organization led by concerned seniors in the Chicago metropolitan neighborhood to work for economic, social, and racial justice for all.

Southside Together Organizing for Power is a community organization that builds the power of residents on the Southside of Chicago to impact the forces and decisions that affect our lives, addressing issues like gentrification, displacement, health cuts, incarceration and criminalization of youth of color.

Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality: Northside is a mixed-income, multi-ethnic, intergenerational organization that unites our diverse communities and builds collective power to eliminate injustice through bold and innovative community organizing.

People for Community Recovery’s mission is to enhance the quality of life of residents living in communities affected by environmental pollution, with emphasis on the Altgeld Gardens and Riverdale communities. PCR educates and coordinates with local residents on issues of the environment, health, housing, education, training, neighborhood safety and economic equity.

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